

XXI.—*Description of a new Genus of Molossine Bats from West Africa.* By GUY DOLLMAN, B.A.

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AMONG a collection of West-African mammals recently presented to the British Museum by Dr. H. G. F. Spurrell is a bat representing a new genus of the family Molossidæ.

XIPHONYCTERIS, gen. nov.

Size similar to that of the smaller species of *Nyctinomus*. Wings small, membranous area much reduced. Ears, feet, and tail much as in *Nyctinomus*.

Skull with median anterior palatal emargination like that of *Nyctinomus*, but emargination quite small and inconspicuous, though extending behind roots of incisors. Teeth according to the following formula:—

$$i. \frac{1-1}{1-1}, c. \frac{1-1}{1-1}, p. \frac{2-2}{2-2}, m. \frac{3-3}{3-3} = 28.$$

Upper incisors quite small and closely in contact with canines; widely separated from each other, wider apart at base than at tip. Upper canine rather similar to that of *Nyctinomus*, but with cingulum very prominent and shaft of tooth longer, much flatter anteriorly, and pointing slightly outwards. Base of canines much enlarged, the anterior edges of the cingula on a level with the anterior limit of the upper incisors; when looked at from above the cingula appear as two prominent crescentic ridges with the minute incisors between them, the incisors being so placed as to resemble two antero-internal cusps on the cingula of the canines. Behind the shaft the cingulum is expanded to form a large flat area, its posterior edge closely in contact with the small anterior premolars. Upper preincisors and molars as in *Nyctinomus*, the molars with well-developed hypocones. Lower incisors reduced to a single pair of very minute functionless teeth, bridged over by the junction of the lower canines; cutting-edges deeply bifid. Lower canines with well-developed cingula, forming anteriorly prominent secondary cusps, which meet together in the mid-line as a bridge over the minute incisors; posterior portion of cingulum large and well developed, much more so than in the allied genera. Lower molars and premolars as in *Nyctinomus*.

Type, *Xiphonycteris spurrelli*.

This genus would appear to be most nearly related to the

genus *Nyctinomus*, which it resembles in general external characters and in the presence of the small upper premolar; but the absence of i_2 , the peculiar position of the single pair of minute lower incisors, and the unusual shape and arrangement of the upper and lower canines are more than sufficient reasons for considering the genera as quite distinct. As regards the genus *Chærephon* the same differences hold good, with the additional character of the median anterior palatal emargination present in *Xiphonycteris*.

In the possession of only a single pair of lower incisors, and in having the lower canines in contact with one another, this genus in some ways resembles the South-American genus *Mollossops*; but the two genera, on account of numerous important differences, cannot be looked upon as close allies.

Xiphonycteris spurrelli, sp. n.

General appearance and size much as in the smaller species of *Nyctinomus*. Ears roughly triangular in shape, with rounded corners; tragus and antitragus apparently normal. Feet comparatively small; toes hairy, the hairs extending along the margin of the interfemoral membrane for about 10 mm. Wings small, forearm only 27 mm. long; wing-membrane very narrow. Hair on back short, a few longer hairs near base of tail. General colour of back rusty red, hairs rather lighter at base than at tips. Under surface of body buffy white, the hairs becoming brownish on the flanks and sides of neck. Tail, as described above, with terminal half free. Interfemoral membrane naked on upper surface, below thinly clad with very minute white hairs.

Skull with rather narrow brain-case, markedly so in the occipital region. Supraoccipital crest well developed, extending back some distance beyond the exoccipital region. Sagittal crest but little developed. Zygoma fairly strong, expanded posteriorly. Anteorbital foramen large. Lachrymal ridge faintly indicated. Anterior palatal emargination about as large as base of upper incisor, extending well behind the roots of incisors. Palate slightly arched laterally, nearly flat antero-posteriorly; pterygoids almost parallel, slightly divergent behind; basisphenoid pits moderately developed. Auditory bullæ small and rather flat.

Teeth as described above.

Dimensions of the type (measured in flesh):—

Head and body 56 mm.; tail 24; hind foot 8; ear 13; forearm 27.

Skull: greatest length 17; basilar length 12·2; condylo-basilar length 14; greatest zygomatic breadth 10; inter-

orbital breadth 3.5; breadth of brain-case (across squamosal region) 8.6; breadth of rostrum (across lachrymal region) 6; palatilar length 5.8; width of palate inside m^2 3.3; width across palate outside m^2 7; postpalatal length 6.5; length of upper tooth-row from front of canine to back of m^3 6.4; length of upper tooth-row from front of first premolar to back of m^3 4.9; height of canine 3.2.

Hab. Bibianaha, 60 miles W. of Kumasi, Gold Coast. Altitude 700 feet.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 11. 1. 11. 1. Original number 34. Collected on December 8th, 1910, by the donor, Dr. H. G. F. Spurrell.

It gives me great pleasure to associate this new and interesting bat with the name of Dr. Spurrell, to whom the National Collection is already indebted for many rare and unique West-African mammals.

XXII.—*Descriptions of Three new Characinid Fishes from South-western Colombia.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

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Lebiasina multimaculata.

Depth of body $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 times in total length, length of head 4 to $4\frac{1}{4}$ times. Eye 3 (young) to 4 times in length of head, as long as snout in adult; interorbital width $2\frac{1}{2}$ times; maxillary extending to below anterior third of eye. Dorsal II 8, about $1\frac{2}{3}$ times as distant from end of snout as from root of caudal. Anal III 8. Pectoral $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head. Caudal deeply notched. Caudal peduncle a little longer than deep. Scales 28–29 in a longitudinal series, 18 round the body; lateral line reduced to the 4 anterior scales. Dark brown above, whitish beneath; 9 to 11 roundish black spots along each side, the last at root of caudal; a blackish band on the anal.

Total length 100 mm.

Three specimens from the Condoto River at Condoto, Choco, 150 ft., from the collection of Mr. M. G. Palmer. These types and the following preserved in the British Museum.

Luciocharax striatus.

Depth of body $6\frac{1}{2}$ times in total length, length of head nearly 3 times. Snout longer than postocular part of head, 4 times diameter of eye, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ times in interorbital